

MEDIA DAYS

Tuesday, Oct. 5

- The Gazette reports that BQ language critic Suzanne Tremblay told Parliament that English-speaking people in Quebec "had it pretty good up to now", and therefore should have their federal funding cut. (AQ responds.)
- The new Education Minister Jean Garon suggests that he is no rush to create linguistic school boards. (A coalition of English education groups, led by AQ, respond.)
- The Globe reports that Parizeau is ready to offer natives extensive natural resources rights.
- Parizeau continues to try to send an alternate on the "Team Canada" trip to Asia.
- In a letter to the Wall Street Journal, Robert Blohm takes on Pierre Lemieux and suggests that the referendum might be won with good timing.
- Candidates in the Saint-Jean riding, where a second election will be held October 24, are given until October 10 to declare.

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- The PQ says it will stay out of any federal-provincial government conferences where matters of exclusive federal jurisdiction are discussed.
- Jean Charest tells Laval business lunch Canada is about shared sovereignty. Quebec and all other provinces share with Ottawa the authority to govern. He also says that a defence of the status quo won't win the referendum campaign.
- Claude Morin, the man blamed for the PQ sovereignty policy called *étapisme*, cites three factors necessary

Liberal social reform gets cool response in Quebec

But, some feel the Parti Québécois doth protest too much

The Chrétien government proposals for discussing ways of reforming the social security "net" were small on specifics, long on exclusions. The government says the paper is aimed at starting debate not being the lightning rod for discontent.

Significant topics of discussion include the creation of two-tiers of Unemployment Insurance benefits, one for the frequent or seasonal user of UI and a different one for someone who only occasionally needs to have UI payouts.

In Quebec, criticism took on an angry tone. Premier Jacques Parizeau had already stated: "We [the Parti Québécois government] are not here to make the federal system work better for all Canadians; we're here to get out of the system. Period."

His Minister responsible for Quebec's relations with Canada therefore lost no time denouncing the program as a dishonest encroachment on provincial rights and a scheme to impoverish Quebecers.

The call of "Hands off!" was escalated by the Bloc Québécois in Ottawa. Lucien Bouchard called into question the very right of the government in Ottawa to begin talks towards some bilateral arrangements for social services.



This was too much even for some of Monsieur Bouchard's media allies. *Le Devoir*, in a front-page insight column, underlined that reforms affected Quebec as much as any other region of Canada.

School Elections on Nov. 20

The new Quebec Education Minister suggested to the media this week that he is in no particular rush to get linguistic school boards underway.

The process of converting Quebec school commissions to a linguistic rather than a denominational base has already been begun. The previous Liberal government had set September 1, 1996 as the date for implementation.

For Quebec's English-speaking community, the concept of linguistic boards

has taken root as a means to build a strong and viable English-language system.

With resources split among schools in denominational systems across Quebec, and some regional school populations stretched between two English schools of different denominations, the need for a linguistic consolidation is real.

It is with the original timetable and the new threats to the advent of linguistic boards in mind that a concerted effort to encourage people to run and

AQ goes to TO

The agenda is being set for Alliance Quebec's planned trip to Toronto.

The dates are presently set at October 27-29, which is a Thursday through Saturday. The plans include meetings with key political figures, local media, some business leaders in the Toronto community, and a number of smaller meetings hosted by individuals in Toronto.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for us, please call Rina Elster Pantalony at (514) 875-2771.

LIBERAL (cont.)

Detailed discussion, Le Devoir said, could not be ignored or evaded on the questionable doctrine of separation of provincial and federal powers.

The Gazette's Bill Johnson more predictably weighed in with the idea that: "the PQ/BQ politicians, blinded by their utopian commitment to succession, now . . . prefer propaganda blasts about Ottawa violating the constitution to development of a more rational, integrated system of social programs." Johnson added: "[They] will sacrifice all the citizens, but especially the poorest and most vulnerable, to the image of an independent Quebec."

There is one of the proposals for change that could prove to be a major concession to the decentralist forces within Canada.

Universities Hit

The idea of having the federal authority stop all

institutional funding to universities is a major change in policy and in the balance that has worked in favour of the universities for some time. There are suggestions that a complete removal of federal aid would add between 40% and 100% to tuition fees. However, with student loans being sweetened, the real cost could be less. The loss of federal university funding that Quebec had rarely and reluctantly acknowledged would be an embarrassment to the new government. It would be a demonstration of the federal presence in Quebec's daily life. It would mean a loss of monies that the province simply can't afford to replace directly.

It's all still at the discussion stage. But this discussion, like every other one that deals with the public administration, will be an occasion for new accusations about Quebec's position in Canada.

A National Poll

The Parties in Other Provinces

A COMPAS poll done for the Financial Post shows the provincial Liberal parties leading in almost every Canadian province outside Quebec. It also shows that some major shifts have taken place over the summer. The most pronounced being a provincial Reform surge in B.C., a P.C. gain at the expense of the Liberals in Saskatchewan, and a slight gain for the NDP in Ontario.

Alberta's Conservatives and Saskatchewan's NDP now narrowly lead the Liberals. But in other provinces, the provincial Liberal parties have a truly remarkable lead.

In Ontario, for example, the virtually unknown Lyn McLeod has about 60% of the vote. Her nearest rivals are the Tory's Mike Harris at 20% and Bob Rae over 15%. In New Brunswick Frank McKenna's Liberals have an amazing 80%!

The Ontario situation is of particular interest to Quebecers because Premier Bob Rae must call an election by September 1995. And a campaign there during a Quebec referendum could have an effect on matters here.

SCHOOLS (cont.)

to vote in the coming school board elections has been undertaken.

The elections will be held on November 20, 1994. Many of the school boards have done a

very bad job of enumerating voters. If you have not been enumerated, you ought to have been. Even if you have not, you still can.

Contact your school board or

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for a referendum success: an ancient will to independence, the presence of an immediate threat to the culture and hope for improvement by breaking the present government bonds. He sees none of these present in Quebec today.

● Parizeau, his Cabinet and regional delegates in place, takes a week's vacation.

Thursday, Oct. 6

● Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy's new social policy document is analyzed in the press. There are some positive comments. The PQ reacts negatively and somewhat speedily.

Friday, Oct. 7

● Coverage of the Solar Cult blocks out almost all other news.

● The FTQ publishes their demand list for the PQ in *Le Devoir*.

● A front-page column in *Le Devoir* is slightly critical of the haste with which the PQ rejects the Axworthy plan.

● Prominent PQ backbencher Jean-Pierre Chabonneau says the referendum debate must be honest.

Weekend, Oct 8-10

● The new film "Octobre", which is already closing across Canada for lack of interest, continues to grab headlines in Quebec.

● Don Macpherson proposes Richard Holden to replace Reed Scowen as Quebec Agent General in New York.

● Reporters declare the end of the Chrétien government's honeymoon.

● Preston Manning faces pressure on his leadership at a Reform Convention.

Tuesday, Oct. 11

● Globe columnist Peter Cook points out that Canada does not belong in the G7; because new, proper calculations put

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us at 13th.

● The Bloc Québécois stays mum on the new federal environmental law that the PQ has blasted; the law was drafted by former Environment Minister Lucien Bouchard.

● Richard le Hir tells journalists that he might release the famous reports on the cost of duplications, but that they are inconclusive.

● Alain Dubuc writes about the impossible mission of Jean Campeau.

● La Presse reports that Quebec business people are fighting to get onto the Team Canada Asia trip.

Wednesday, Oct 12

● Lucien Bouchard tells the Gazette Editorial Board that a referendum "No" vote could cause a crisis.

● Alain Dubuc used the Environment-BQ silence to show that "Quebec-first" politicians don't always do so.

● A front-page La Presse story shows housing starts down 20% in Montreal over last year, while remaining stable across Canada.

● Quebec economist Pierre Fortin is reported on the front of Le Devoir to say that Quebec's deficit would climb by \$3.5B with sovereignty. But that could be overcome.

● Robert Normand & Gérard Latulippe are reported to be sovereignty converts.

● Jean Campeau heads to Toronto for a federal-provincial relations conference Thursday and Friday.

● Francophones outside Quebec applaud the BQ for all that it has done for them.

● Linda Cardinal writes on the failure of the federal efficiency argument in *Le Devoir*

● Jean-V Dufresne ridicules Gérard Latulippe conversion, saying it engenders "whole-some cynicism".

Alliance Quebec for more information.

A New Booklet

Alliance Quebec has published a guide to the school board elections that is available

by contacting the Alliance Quebec offices at 875-2771. It outlines ideas for strategy and some of the regulations guiding the election, as well as quoting the law extensively.